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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q78301

Atsunori KITAZAWA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/705,261

Group Art Unit: 2852

Confirmation No.: 3189

Examiner: Laura K. ROTH

Filed: November 12, 2003

For: **FIXING DEVICE AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS**

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Examiner has identified the application as containing claims directed to one distinct species. The Examiner has required the Applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted. The Examiner believes there are no generic claims. Applicant has been advised that a response to this requirement shall include an identification of the species that is elected and a listing of all claims readable thereon.

In response to the Examiner's requirement, Applicant elects Species V, Figure(s) 9-10 for examination on which claim 10 is readable.

Applicant submits that if any of the elected claims are found to be allowable, claims dependent therefrom should similarly be considered allowable in the same application.

Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional Application directed to non-elected claims 1-9 and 11-18.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 31, 2006